

Those findings were in turn forwarded to Stancik's successor, Richard J. Condon, a former police commissioner who in the past headed investigative squads for the Manhattan and Queens district attorneys. When Condon took over in June 2002, he retained Loughran, bumping her up a notch to first deputy commissioner. A DOI spokesperson, Emily Gest, said the office hadn't ordered any changes or discipline for Loughran, but had "shared the facts and findings of its investigation, for Commissioner Condon to take any necessary remedial actions." Condon said that he too took the complaints seriously, spending hours wading through old investigative files. "I was not a witness to this history," he said. "Most of these things happened years before I got here."

The standard he used in examining the cases, Condon said, was whether Loughran had had a "rational basis" for her decisions. In two instances—that of the art instructor who had shown the nude photos, and the teacher who had posed the obscene remarks to the student—Condon said he disagreed with Loughran's actions, but cautioned that even this conclusion was "probably unfair."

As for the failure to make a criminal referral in the Bronx sodomy case, Condon said the explanation was simple. "She screwed up. It happens." He noted that the office had handled a total of 1,800 cases during the period under review. Loughran also later told DOI's inquiry that she was "baffled" how she had failed to make the referral, but said if she was to blame so were her former bosses, Stancik and Robert Brenner, who served as Stancik's first deputy commissioner. (Brenner, now with the investigations firm Kroll Inc., did not return calls.)

At the end of the day, however, Condon said he chalked up the complaints to honest disagreements. "I am used to investigators and prosecutors arguing over whether cases should be prosecuted," he said.

Condon told the Daily News' Kathleen Lucadamo, who asked about the probe last month, that he considered Loughran "one of the straightest, most hardworking prosecutors I have ever worked with."

He told the Voice that he'd encountered none of the erratic behavior by Loughran described by the investigators. "I have been here three and a half years working next door to this woman and I have never seen the behavior these people describe," he said.

In a letter to DOI, however, Condon said he had changed office procedures to make sure he personally reads all complaints that come into the office and examines "every substantiated and unsubstantiated case."

Loughran, who declined to speak to the Voice, wrote Condon a lengthy defense of her actions, insisting that her decisions at the office had been "common-sense based and not capricious by any rational standard."

The investigators, past and current, remain unconvinced. "This isn't just disagreeing over cases," said one. "Yeah, there's always tension [in other investigative offices] between the investigators and the prosecutors. But it's always motivated by

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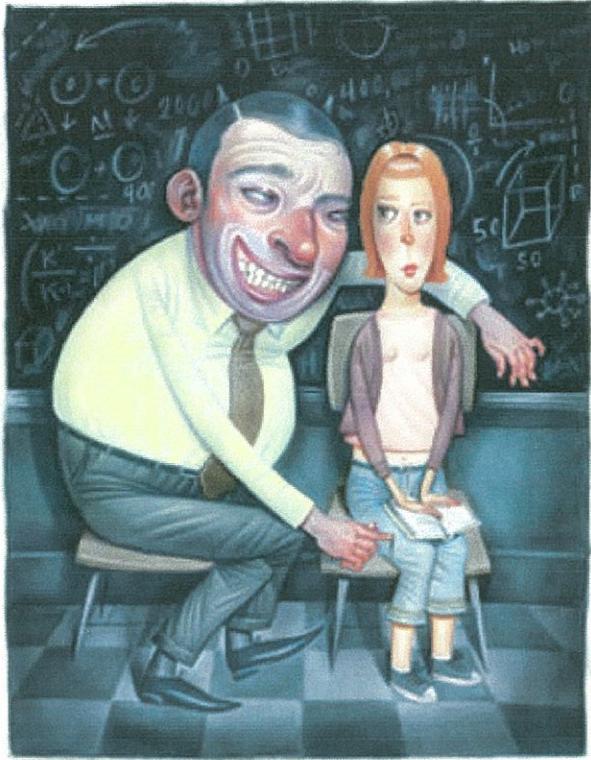
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respect, and everyone understands they're a team. Here, you don't get that. And they're supposed to be about helping the kids."



I personally have brought documented proof of wrong-doing to SCI about the financial affairs at Stuyvesant High School (I was a parent member of the PA from 1999-2007), and then, in 2006, I received a telephone call from SCI Deputy Commissioner Thomas Fennell, who yelled, "SCI "would NEVER look into Stuyvesant High School's financial affairs, ever, and dont ever bring Stuyvesant back to this office."

So, when a teacher asks a question that should never be asked, such as "Where is Jane's IEP?", a Principal has to make a decision to end this teacher's career immediately or not, by reporting something into the OORS which goes to the Special Commissioner of Investigation. The person whose name is entered is now marked as 'trouble'.

How we got here is available in postings that I and others have made on this blog, my website (parentadvocates.org) and in various local newspapers. You will not find the information in the New York Times, the NY Daily News, the NY Post, Newsday, or any other newspaper owned, operated or aligned with either Rupert Murdoch or Mortimer Zuckerman.

Posted by Betsy at 3:04 PM

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